BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): Madam, I lay on the Table—

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of section 22 and sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh for the year 1995-96, together with the Audit Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above. [Placed in Library. *See No.* LT-1639/97].

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, Kerala, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

(iii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1768/97].

MESSAGES FROM LOK SABHA

(I) The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1997.

(II) The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 1997.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Madam, I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha.

(I) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I 'am directed to enclose the Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1997, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th March, 1997.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill."

(II)

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 1997, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th March, 1997.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill."

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PA RLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

SHRI ASHOK MITRA (West Ben gal): Madam, I present the Twenty-first Report (in English and Hindi) of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on 'Industrial situation'.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COFFEE BOARD

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. B.B. RAMAIAH): Madam, I move the following Motion:—

That in pursuance of cluase (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942 (7 of 1942), read with sub-rule (1) of rule of the Coffee Rules, 1955, this House do

proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to be a member of the Coffee Board.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

RE. NEED FOR A UNIFORM CIVIL AVIATION POLICY

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am happy that a couple of important Cabinet Ministers are present here on behalf of the Government. You may kindly recall that this House cutting across political differences, transcending political differences expressed its uniform feeling that the Government of India should come forward with a uniform civil aviation policy, a comprehensive civil aviation policy because we have been hearing disturbing reports that various proposals by foreign airlines to have tie-up with the domestic private airline which are to be made are being processed by the Cabinet Madam, we had raised that issue in the context of the proposal of the Tata-Singapore Airlines operation in the domestic sector. What we are objecting to was that the Government should not allow such a tie-up in domestic sector. The Government should have a comprehensive civil aviation policy. We have already said that we are opposed to foreign airlines and domestic private airlines coming together to operate in the domestic sector. We were very firm on that point. We understand that certain private airlines are already having foreign equity participation and they are operating in the domestic sector. We are opposed to that also. Therefore, this is a very serious matter. In spite of a uniform voice expressed by this House, we understand that the Union Cabinet is processing this particular proposal. We also understand that the Union Cabinet is going to take a decision on this proposal very soon. We want to raise our voice again together and demand that the Government should come forward with a comprehensive civil aviation policy. So far as international sectors are concerned, there can be a tie-up with foreign airlines. But in the domestic sector, if foreign airlines are going to be allowed to have a tie-up with domestic private airlines, it would ruin the Indian Airlines. We are very much concerned about this. If the Union Cabinet is not going to come out with a comprehensive policy, a uniform policy we may have to get exercised over and we may have to be very firm on this particular issue. We also want some Cabinet Minister to respond on this issue.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam Deputy Chairman, last time the hon. Minister was kind enough to announce that he is going to declare a policy during this session itself. Now, we have to distinguish between a foreign airline and a foreign investment. We are not against foreign investment in the domestic sector. We want foreign investment in the domestic sector. But we are objecting to a foreign airline in the domestic sector. This is the difference. The Government has to decide on that line.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairma, during the period of the previous Congress Government when a report appeared in the newspapers about the Tata-Singapore Airline tie-up, I wrote a letter to the then Prime Minister and the then Civil Aviation Minister opposing it. I think we all objected to it. Again it has come up. The main point is this foreign airline is going to be linked with international air traffic, not merely with domestic air traffic. So, Air India is also going to be severely affected. This foreign airline can attract domestic passengers from India to abioad also through this link up. Therefore, it is going to affect both the Indian Airlines as well as Air India. Air India is always running at a loss. If we allow the foreign airline apart from the quota system, then, it is going to be a disastrous thing. I fully endorse what my colleague, Mr. Baby